



Bountiful City to Continue Investment in City's Critical Power and Water Infrastructure

City Council Approves Rate Restructuring For Power, Solar and Water

BOUNTIFUL, Utah – On Tuesday, June 13 at 7 pm Bountiful City Council discussed needed infrastructure improvements and rate restructuring for power, solar and water services. For almost a century, Bountiful City has served its residents with water and power services through utilities owned by the city government. To ensure that these critical services continue to operate efficiently at the level the community needs, city leaders are recommending changes to water, power and solar rates.

“Water and power are indispensable and important to every aspect of our lives,” says Bountiful City Manager Gary Hill. “We need to be good stewards of our systems so they can continue to operate for another 100 years.”

The power and water departments for some time have been planning and assessing their needs to seek rate restructuring and provide city officials with recommendations. The rate restructuring being proposed will address the following needs: replace and upgrade aging water and power systems, maintain systems and reliability, meet State mandates for water conservation, and ensure sustainable solar power.

“To ensure that services remain reliable and cost-effective, it’s necessary to make periodic investments in our critical services,” says Hill. “We know from experience that investing in the city’s infrastructure pays off in minimizing disruptions, reducing main breaks and power outages, and allowing us to respond adequately to fires and demand.”

The city needs to replace 110 miles of its 176-mile water pipeline system over the next 40 years. Many of the city’s pipelines were installed as long ago as the early 1900s and have outlived their life expectancy. Many of the pipelines are also undersized to meet future demand and new state regulations.

Although the city has invested in upgrades to power substations, made improvements to create redundancy in the system and replaced 860 power poles, there are still 3,000 aging power poles that must be replaced in the coming years. The city must also replace underground power cables that are nearing the end of their useful life, and upgrade and rebuild its 138 KV substation and transmission facilities. The power department also needs to replace equipment, improve its computer monitoring systems, install meters that can be read remotely and maintain its tree trimming programs.



“Solar technology is changing quickly and we now have about 145 solar customers,” says Hill. “We need a new solar rate model so that the power system can remain cost-effective and reliable for the city and its solar customers.”

The power and water rate changes would affect all current and future customers. The proposed solar rate changes will affect only new solar customers or those who make changes to their solar systems. The following is the rate restructuring the city is considering.

- A power rate increase of \$4 per month per household.
- A water rate increase of about \$7 per month for most households (depending upon meter size and elevation).
- A state-mandated tiered block water rate to encourage water conservation. This rate structure means that there is a block of water that each water customer can use at a set rate that is in line with what the average user consumes. If a customer consumes more water than what is allotted in that block their rate increases to the next consumption tier and cost.
- A proposed new solar rate structure that incentivizes afternoon solar generation and ensures solar customers contribute fairly to the costs of running and maintaining the power delivery system and services that they use.

“The city is committed to making the needed investments while continuing to provide high-quality services that remain more affordable than those of nearby cities and service providers,” says Hill.

The Bountiful City Council considered and approved these rate changes during their meeting on Tuesday, June 13 at 7 pm. at Bountiful City Hall, 790 South 100 East. City residents were encouraged to attend the meeting and provide input.

For more information about the proposed rate restructuring, please visit the city website at www.bountifulutah.gov.

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